RITCHIE BLACKMORE

POLL WINNER: Top Guitarist

THE Man In Black was the clear choice as Kerrang!'s fave fingerpicker, coming out in front of such other ace axemen as Michael Schenker and Angus Young. And, in fact, last year was unquestionably Rainbow's most successful to date as they made strong chart impact and sold out their UK tour. Ritchie's Christmas present was the 'Best Of Rainbow' compilation and when that emerged the band were recording a new studio album in Montreal. Don Airey is no longer with the group but, to quote Roger Glover: ''There'll always be a Rainbow as long as Ritchie's in it!''